

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DLOS-09 ACDA-12 /107 W  
-----044637 311229Z /12

R 302038Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7657  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 10379

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS PBOR CI AR  
SUBJECT: BEAGLE CHANNEL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 9946

1. SUMMARY. THE GOC, WHILE ATTEMPTING TO DOWNPLAY REPORTS THAT BEAGLE CHANNEL NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTY, IS ATTRIBUTING THE ABRUPT TERMINATION OF THE MOST RECENT ROUND TO A CHANG IN THE ARGENTINE POSITION. WE BELIEVE THE GOC WANTS TO KEEP DISCUSSIONS GOING AT LEAST THROUGH FEBRUARY 2, BUT IS NOT WILLING TO MAKE MAJOR NEW CONCESSIONS TO THAT END. END SUMMARY.

2. ON HIS RETURN FROM BUENOS AIRES DECEMBER 28, FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL WENT IMMEDIATELY TO INFORM PRESIDENT PINOCHET. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, DURING THE EARLIER ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS IN SANTIAGO ARGENTINA HAD PROPOSED THAT CHILE'S TERRITORIAL SEA EXTENDED TWELVE MILES BEYOND THE EASTERN TIP OF NUEVA ISLAND. HOWEVER, CARVAJAL REPORTEDLY TOLD PINOCHET THAT THE ARGENTINES BEGAN THE DISCUSSIONS ON DECEMBER 27 BY INSISTING THAT THEIR PREVIOUS POSITION HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN AND THEN WENT ON TO  
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MAKE NEW PROPOSALS (NOT SPELLED OUT).

3. ON DECEMBER 29 THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT, THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO "MAKE CLEAR" FOR THE RECORD THAT THE GOC HAD NOT BEEN THE ORIGINAL PROPONENT OF THE TWELVE MILE TERRITORIAL SEA EAST OF NUEVA ISLAND. IN OTHER RESPECTS THE PRESS

STATEMENT, AS WELL AS CARVAJAL'S REPORTED TALK WITH PINOCHET THE PREVIOUS NIGHT, ATTEMPTED TO MAINTAIN A POSITIVE STANCE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS. CARVAJAL, ASKED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS FROM BUENOS AIRES THAT THE BEAGLE CHANNEL NEGOTIATIONS WERE AT AN IMPASSE, SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT SO CHARACTERIZE THEM.

4. NEVERTHELESS, THE SANTIAGO PAPERS TEND TO TAKE A PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION. AN EL MERCURIO EDITORIAL OF DECEMBER 30 SUGGESTS THAT THE PROBLEM SHOULD BE TURNED BACK TO THE TECHNICIANS.

5. COMMENT. ON THE BASIS OF REFTEL AND INFORMATION HERE, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH BOTH SIDES ARE BLAMING THE OTHER FOR THE FAILURE TO MAKE PROGRESS AT THE MOST RECENT MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE CHILEANS WANT TO KEEP DISCUSSIONS GOING BUT APPARENTLY ARE NOT WILLING TO MAKE MAJOR CONCESSIONS FOR THE SAKE OF A SETTLEMENT PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 2. THE GOC WOULD PROBABLY BE WELL SATISFIED WITH THE GOA'S REPORTED THRID OPTION.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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